

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Division of Ecological Restoration

Tim Purinton, *Director*



Deval Patrick
Governor

Timothy P. Murray
Lieutenant Governor

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.

Secretary

Mary B. Griffin
Commissioner

June 10, 2013

Kristen Conroy
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 1
5 Post Office Square
Suite 100 (ORA01-1)
Boston, MA. 02109-3912

RE: DEP grant proposal: US EPA Wetlands Program Development Grant FY 2013

Dear Ms. Conroy,

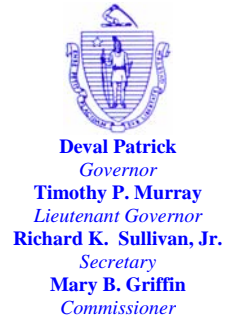
Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) in the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) strongly supports Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) 2013 grant proposal to EPA titled: *Pilot Chicopee Watershed Wetland Assessment; Climate Change Adaptation Strategy; and Wetland Restoration/Vulnerable Wetlands Outreach*.

DER understands that core to the proposal is support for an outreach specialist; DER staff will offer expertise and experience to support this specialist in context to the newly proposed regulations that streamline eligible ecological restoration projects. Specifically we will help develop case studies to help applicants work through the general permit application. In addition we will provide support for the proposed workshops that are intended to help train external groups and MassDEP staff. Accordingly we will aid the outreach specialist with technical expertise to develop FAQs that draw upon projects we have completed in order to to anticipate stakeholder questions, concerns, etc.

A key component of the grant to EPA is the development of sediment management plan guidance to enable river restoration. DER staff will invest considerable staff time to help develop this guidance to inform dam removal projects. DER coordinates dozens of dam removal projects and the need for a clearer path to handle impounded sediment within the regulatory framework is needed.

Department of Fish and Game, Division of Ecological Restoration

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With the completion of this guidance regulators, applicants and restoration advocates will have an important tool to advance restoration at a larger scale and volume.

In summary DER is committed to providing \$12,300 worth of staff time to support MassDEP's Wetland/Ecological Restoration outreach effort. However, it is our understanding that our staff time is currently not being used as a match for MassDEP's proposal. DER staffers Hunt Durey, Beth Lambert and Alex Hackman (resumes attached) will:

- Assist in the development of sediment management plan guidance for new ecological restoration projects.
- Provide examples from case studies to help applicants practically apply the general permit standards/conditions in the training and outreach presentations.
- Collaborate with MassDEP to facilitate workshop development and implementation for external groups and interagency staff.
- Work collaboratively with MassDEP's Outreach Specialist to develop FAQs and any related technical information materials, web-based outreach necessary to address stakeholder questions and concerns.

DER strongly supports MassDEP's proposal and encourages you to give it favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Purinton, Director

CC: DFG Commissioner Mary Griffin